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Founded by Hon. S. Hirayama, P. C.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

We deeply regret to inform you that we have experienced the great earthquake disaster. As this year is the fifteenth year since the establishment of our magazine, in commemoration we had planned great improvements in our magazine, but to our great regret, all plans of improvements have been made impossible. Our editorial rooms together with printing presses were destroyed, rendering it impossible to continue the regular publication of our magazine. We shall, however, do our utmost to repay all the favours bestowed upon us, and expect to begin the regular publication of our magazine from November, at the latest.

In spite of our disastrous circumstances, however, we shall carry out our plan to reduce the price of "the Japan Magazine", beginning with the next issue. And we beg that you will subscribe to the magazine at once. The reduced price is as follows : ——

Subscription

In the Japanese Empire, (post paid) per year in advance ..... ¥5.50
Foreign Countries, (post paid) per year in advance ..... $3.00
Price for Single Copy ..... 50sen or 25cents.

We shall gladly receive and forward to the suitable relief organizations in Tokyo, any contribution made by foreigners who sympathize with Japan in her disaster.

TO THE JAPAN MAGAZINE CO.

6, Itchome, Uchisaiwaicho, Kojimachi, TOKYO

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# EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

September 1st brought a great misfortune to Japan such as is not known in history. Tokyo and neighbourhood were almost wholly devastated by a series of violent earth-quakes followed by conflagration. On that day the people of Tokyo were enjoying the calm and clear wheather, and they did not in the least expect such a great catastrophe. About noon, however, they heard a strange sound approaching, and in the next moment they found themselves being greatly shaken so that it was impossible for them to stand or walk.

Countless buildings, gorgeously decorated, were leveled to tho ground in an instant. And fires broke out from the leveled houses at fourteen different points, and spread over the entire down town section aided by the hurricanes which sprang up by that time. The fire continued for days and nights, destroying buildings, bridges, boats and every thing in the city. Unimaginable numbers of persons were killed in the fire. Thousands of people, who jumped into the river Sumida to escape the fire, also perished. According to the estimate made by tne Metropolitan Police Board over 150.000 people were killed, in Tokyo alone.

The entire city traffic, cummunication system, gas aud water pipes, as well as transport facilities leading out of Tokyo were wholly paralized at the same time.

Thus, the city of Tokyo, which for more than 300 years enjoyed the leadership among the civilizations of the Far East was reduced back to its ancient state of a sea-shore field just in a twinkling of an eye. It is equal to Pompeii and San Francisco disasters combined. Every river in the city was filled with dead bodies and one can not walk we can not but feel that we are dreaming ominous dreams.

Those who escaped from the hell are marching like so many day-time ghosts through the hardly recognizable streets with faint hopes of finding their beloved ones. The refugees who lost their beloved ones and all their property, when they realize their own pitiable positions, become mad, and the police are busy in checking those who would commit suicide. In Uyeno park, many of the bereaved refugees are hanging themselves. A family of three, father, mother and child were found hanged on the same branch of a tree. On roads leading to the country can be seen endless lines of foot-sore refugees almost exhausted from weeping. Some such pitiable scenes as a mother walking for hours in the sun without noticing her baby on her back has long been dead are innumerable. Over a million and a half lost their homes and every one of them has his own story of a terrible experience.

Yokohama was much more terribly devastated than Tokyo and it is said the only building which was left unburned was the Yokohama Specie Bank. Many foreign residents of Yokohama were also killed. Kamakura and neighbourhood were also wholly destroyed. As this district is one of Japan's famous summer resorts, many prominent personages as well as two princes of the blood, who were staying there at the time of the disaster, were killed.

A tunnel at Hakoné caved in and a train which was then passing through the tunnel was crushed with its hundreds of passengers.

The damages estimated by the government authorities are said to amount to seven

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susteoined is said to amonnt to three times the economic loss Japan sustained in Russo-Japanese war. It is more miserable in Tokyo than it was in ancient Pompeii, for the people who were bereaved of their families are killing themselves and thousands of people, who were seriously injured, are having their last hours of agony insufferably prolonged.

All the pomp of civilization, all the powers of modern science, of which our century is so proud, are impotent before the anger of great Nature. Indeed, it is doubted whether the city may be restored at all to its previous condition.

Next the writer will endeavour to enumerate the outstanding incidents caused by the disaster and the remarkable features in the situation after the earthquake.

The entire down town section of Tokyo, which occupies about two thirds of the whole and which is the centre of Tokyo's commerce and industry and a part of the remaining residence section were wholly destroyed.

The whole of Yokohama was destroyed excepting the outlying districts. The Bluff suffered especially.

The so-called "Shōnan District" also was destroyed by the earthquake.

There sprang up an island in Sagami Bay, and also one in Tateyama Bay.

The coast of Awa province facing the Pacific fell into the sea.

Many government buildings including the Metropolitan Police Board, the Home Department, the Finance Department and others were burned.

The Embassies of America, France, and Italy and the legations of China and Holland in Tokyo and many consulates at Yokohama institutions in Tokyo and Yokohama including Tokyo Imperial University, Tokyo Commercial College, Meiji University, Chuo University, Nihon University, Hosei University and other prominent institutions of higher learning were burned.

Over two thirds of the elmentary and seeondary educational institutions in Tckyo and Yokohama were also burned.

The foreigners in Karuizawa and Miyanoshita were safe but some damage was done to these places.

Notables killed were; Princess Yamashina, Prince Higashi-Kuui, Mr. Tokutomi, Ex-Minister Matsuoka, Baron K. Sonodâ, Fleet Admiral T. Kataoka and wife and the Siamese minister to Japan.

The American Consul-General in Yokohama, the French Consul at Yokohama, the Argentine Consul, acting Minister of Chili and the Spanish Minister and staff are reported dead.

All members of the American Embassy are safe excepting Miss Doris Babbit, killed in Yokohama.

All British officials in Tokyo and Yokohama are safe.

At the old military clothing department ground in Honjo ward 32,680 refugees who assembled there to escape the fire were burned to death in a mass as the ground was wrapped in flames,

In the premises of the Toyo Spinning Co. about 700 workmen perished in a mass.

According to the estimate made by the Metorpolitan Police Board the number of burned houses is 316,000, which corresponds to seventy-one per cent of the total number; and the number of people whose houses were burnt is 1,550,000 which is sixty-seven per-cent of Tokyo's total population.

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The whole of Tckyo, Saitama Prefecture,

ral Fukuda was appointed Commander-in-chief of these districts. The object is to maintain public order in these districts by military force.

On the sixth of September three urgency Imperial ordinances were promulgated. The first is to prohibit usury taking advantage of the disaster, the second is to maintain public order, and the third is to postpone the fulfilment of all liabilities for thirty days beginning from September 1st, in the district which sustained damages from the disaster.

The moratrium lasting for two weeks woich is to be applied to the damaged district is likely to be promulgated soon.

H. E. Cyrus E. Wood, American Ambassador to Japan, gave profound impressions to us by offering America's assistance in alleviating the situation. He announced that an American naval fleet is coming for rescue with food and building material to meet the dire need of Tokyo and other towns.

He also declared that all relief material sent from the United States will be turned over to the Japanese for distribution.

President Coolidge sent a message of condolence to the Emperor which says, — "I am moved to offer you the most heartfelt sympathy and express to Your Majesty my sincere desire to be of any possible assistance in alleviating the terrible sufferings of your people."

The Emperor has given ¥10,000,000 for relief work.

Baron Iwasaki and Baron Mitsui donated ¥5,000,000 respectively to the relief fund. And other wealthy men followed their examples.

The government authorities are doing their utmost in rescue work and have decided to expend ¥9,500,000 from the contingent fund for relief work. The goverun-

of the capital-city.

Osaka and other prefectures are vieing with each other in rescue work, and all of tne prefectures near Tokyo have already sent relief parties.

It is reported that the dysentery is prevailing among the refugees at Hibiya Park, causing many deaths.

There are rumours of Korean outrages and of the conflicts between the Koreans and the Japanese, but they are unfounded and ridiculous. The authorities are protecting the Koreans from any persecution that might be caused by such rumours.

America, sympathizing with Japan in her disaster, has decided to give $50,000,000 to Japan.

King of England gave £360,000 to the relief fund.

France and Italy, sympathizing with Japan in her disaster, have prohibited all sorts of musical and dancing entertainments within their territories

The head-quarters of the Japan Red Cross Society were burned, but the Society is busily engaged in relief work in cooperation with its branches.

The government is going to establish the Department of Reconstruction and to expend ¥5,000,000,000 for the rebuilding of the capital city.

(The above descriptions contain almost all of the outstanding features that were known by the 10th of September)

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